

selves. Much fluid blood was found in the cavity of the thorax, and a large coagulum in the pericardium. The left auricle of the heart was lacerated to the extent of about an inch at its posterior and inferior portion; the lungs were uninjured; and none of the large vessels ruptured. Mr. Hancock thought the case interesting from the fact of the man having lived nearly twelve hours, with so extensive a laceration of the substance of the heart; the man, subsequent to the injury, was obliged to be kept in the erect position; the pulse had not been examined with reference to any difference at the wrists.—*Lancet*, January 30th, 1841.

60. *Case of Poisoning by Tobacco.* By M. TAVIGNOT.—A strong man, of 55 years of age, had a tobacco enema administered to him for the relief of ascariides in the rectum. The enema was ordered to be composed of one drachm and a half (60 centigrammes) of tobacco leaves in about six ounces of water, but by mistake 16 drachms (50 grammes) of tobacco were used and administered before the mistake was discovered. Seven or eight minutes had scarcely elapsed from the period of its administration before stupor, headache, and extreme paleness of the face made their appearance; pain was complained of in the abdomen, the speech became thick and indistinct, and slight convulsive movements were observed. A purgative enema was immediately administered, stimuli and strong coffee were also given, cloths dipped in cold water were applied to the head, and sinapisms to various parts of the body. He was also bled pretty freely.

Notwithstanding all these means, the paleness of the face and surface of the body increased, the expression of the face was indicative of pain and stupor, the pupils of the eyes were natural, the respiration became more and more laborious and slow; his intellectual faculties seemed to be greatly weakened, but he still occasionally understood questions which were put to him, though unable to answer to them distinctly; convulsive tremors were first observed in the arms, but soon extended to the legs and trunk of the body, and went on increasing in severity for six or seven minutes, after which a state of complete prostration came on, attended with slow very painful respiration. Well marked coma, with complete relaxation of all the muscles of the body, preceded the fatal termination, which took place about eighteen minutes after the administration of the enema. The pulse stood at 68 before the blood-letting, and 44 after it. No vomiting occurred in this case.—*Ed. Med. and Surg. Journ.*, from *Gaz. Méd. de Paris*, Nov. 28, 1840.

## STATISTICS.

61. *Statistics of Amputations performed in the African army, during the years 1837, 8, 9.* By Dr. GUYON.—The number of amputations performed in the above years (the campaign of Constantine in 1837 excepted,) was 63, namely:

Disarticulation of the shoulder-joint	6
“ “ elbow	2
“ “ wrist	6
“ “ knee	1
“ partial, of foot	1
“ tarso-metatarsal	1
Amputation of the thigh	16
“ “ leg	7
“ “ arm	15
“ “ fore-arm	8

Of these 63 patients, 46 were cured, 17 died. As, however, four died from circumstances scarcely connected with the amputation, the proportion of deaths may be stated as 1 to 11. This result is much more favourable than that during the siege of Constantine in 1837, for of 10 amputations performed at Médéah, only 1 survived, and of 62 at Blidah, 39 died.

Of the 63 operations referred to above, 44 were performed immediately, 19 secondarily. The former gave 32 cures, 12 deaths; the latter 14 cures, 5 deaths. Thus the proportion of cures after secondary amputation was not less satisfactory than that after immediate.—*British and Foreign Med. Rev. from Gaz. Méd de Paris.* Feb. 13, 1841.

62. *Statistical account of seventy-five cases of amputation, performed on seventy-three patients at the Northern Hospital, Liverpool, from March 1834, to March 1841.*—EDWARD PARKER, Esq. states that of the total number of amputations, 75 on 73 patients, 53 were cured and 20 died; being 1 in  $3\frac{1}{3}$ .

"49 were accidents, of which 14 died, being 1 in  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ; 24 diseases, of which 6 died, being 1 in 4.

"Of the accidents, 40 were primary (performed within 24 hours), of which 8 died, being 1 in 5; 9 were secondary, of which 6 died, being 2 in 3.

"Of the primary amputations, 29 were on the lower extremity, of which 6 died, being 1 in  $4\frac{3}{10}$ ; 11 were on the upper extremity, of which 2 died, being 1 in  $5\frac{1}{2}$ .

"Of the secondary amputations, 7 were on the lower extremity, of which 4 died; 2 were on the upper, both of which died.

"Of the amputations for diseases, 21 were of the lower extremity, of which 5 died, being 1 in  $4\frac{1}{3}$ ; 3 were of the upper extremity, of which 1 died.

Of the whole number of amputations, 57 were on the lower extremity, of which 15 died, being 1 in  $3\frac{3}{10}$ ; 16 were on the upper extremity, of which 5 died, being 1 in  $3\frac{1}{3}$ .

"Below knee.—23 for accidents, of which 8 died; 9 for diseases, of which 3 died.

"Above knee.—8 for accidents, of which 2 died; 12 for diseases, of which 2 died.

"Below elbow.—9 for accidents, of which 3 died.

"Above elbow.—4 for accidents, of which 1 died; 3 for diseases, of which 1 died.

20 were under 20 years of age, of which number 18 were cured, and 2 died.

15 were between 20 and 30 - - - 12 - - 3

13 - - 30 and 40 - - - 8 - - 5

10 - - 40 and 50 - - - 7 - - 3

12 - - 50 and 60 - - - 5 - - 7

1 - - 60 and 70 - - - 1 - - 0

71 51 20

Of two of the patients the age is not mentioned.

"From a consideration of the foregoing tables, I think the following conclusions may be drawn:—

1st. That amputation is a more dangerous operation than is generally supposed, the proportion of fatal cases being 1 in  $3\frac{1}{3}$ .

2d. "That it is more successful when performed for diseases than for accidents.

3d. "That secondary is always much more fatal than primary amputation.

4th. "That amputation of the lower is much more fatal than of the upper extremity.

5th. "That the danger increases with the age of the patient.—*London Med. Gaz.* May, 1841.

## ANIMAL CHEMISTRY.

63. *On the Chemical Analysis of the Blood in its Morbid Condition.* By Dr. LOUIS MANDL.—The object of this series of papers is to point out the defects and fallacies of the present modes of analyzing the blood, and especially of estimating the quantities of its several principal constituents.